

## Project Next Generation Smart Classroom (NGSCs)

### **Mentor: Brandon Sierra**

Contact information:

Email: [bsierra@csusb.edu](mailto:bsierra@csusb.edu)

Mobile Phone: 909.936.0917

Work Phone: 909.537.3476

Over the past few months I have been working alongside the Audio Visual Support Team at California State University, San Bernardino within the division of Information Technology Services on upgrading all the classrooms on the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses with state-of-the-art audio-visual communication equipment. The purpose of this project is to facilitate faculty's excellent teaching in whichever mode they choose, including co-synchronous mode - that is, simultaneously teaching on-site students face-to-face and virtually with remote synchronous students connected through Zoom. This project is the beginning of what many deem as a much-needed shift to offering flexible hybrid courses to students in higher education. We foresee this becoming an industry standard in the coming years. Below is a more detailed breakdown of the equipment that we are installing in each classroom:

### NGSC Equipment

The NGSC's new equipment was chosen and configured with the teaching priorities of helping in-classroom faculty stay aware of the remote virtual students Zooming into the class session and maintaining engagement with both on-site and remote virtual students. Each NGSC will have:

- Ceiling mounted Aver pan-tilt-zoom camera
- Extron control panel to control the AV equipment, including four preset Aver camera angles
- Biamp microphone array
- Dell 24" widescreen touchscreen monitor
- Webcam mounted by gooseneck on the instructor podium
- Epson video projector and projection screen
- Ceiling-mounted audio speakers

Our hope with the establishment of this project is that student attendance remains high given the unknown factors that can arise causing students to not be able to attend class in person. The more recent and ongoing corona virus pandemic shed light on just how devastating an unknown event can jeopardize the core functions of any organization. We hope that this project will open new ways of thinking on how we approach our teaching methods within the higher education sector.

Thank you,

*Michael Portillo*

Michael S. Portillo

*Brandon Sierra*

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